KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

2009 LUMINA FOUNDATION PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

ANALYSIS OF NEED/PROBLEM

The purpose of administering the ALFI at Kentucky State University was to examine and identify areas of strength, as well as areas in which adult students felt that the university was not meeting their expectations (i.e., items with large performance gaps). Findings clearly show that the learning experience is the most widely perceived area of satisfaction for adults at Kentucky State University. This is consistent with the finding that suggested that most important to students is having a program which allows their opinions and experiences to be respected in their classroom experiences at Kentucky State University. Findings from the CAEL-ALI scales reveal that Kentucky State University is improving the way that it reaches out to adult learners. Large gap scores suggest attention may need to be directed toward increasing student's satisfaction with providing information about financial aid and making sure Kentucky State University staff is able to assist adults with financing issues that pertain to working adults. The challenges presented show that the university needs to address the notion that adults are not satisfied with the availability of

course offerings online and the ability to receive credit for learning derived from my previous life and work experiences. When comparing the results of the adult students to the administrators, it is obvious that the area of finances and Outreach should be considered as areas that deserve the most attention in the upcoming plan for addressing challenges that is to be submitted to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of implementing the proposal include addressing issues related to three main areas of need as depicted in the survey response from the Adult Learner Focused Inventory toolkit.

Objective 1 – Revise the Credit for Prior Learning program at Kentucky State University

Objective 2 – Increase the availability of flexible academic programming for adults at Kentucky State University

Objective 3 – Increase the availability of scholarship funds available to Project Graduate students.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Credit for Prior Learning

The overall goal is to make sure that all adult students upon entering the university are made aware of the Credit for Life program at Kentucky State University. This will be accomplished by the Credit for Life coordinator participating in the orientation for adult learners and making the program visible on campus.

A second goal is to revise the policy and increase the ways faculty are supported who participate as portfolio reviewers for the program. The policy will be revised so as to provide standardization of the materials that are required for the portfolio to be assessed. Faculty will be supported by the development of a handbook for faculty members who assess portfolios and compensation for participating faculty will be provided.

As a result of implementing the abovementioned revisions, the measurable goals related to Credit for Prior Learning include the following:

- 25% Increase in the number of students registering for Credit for Prior Learning

- 10% Increase in the number of credit hours that are being sought for Credit for Prior Learning

The following chart shows how the plans to achieve the goals will be implemented.

Action Item:	Approved by:	Deadline/Responsible Party:
Task Force developed	Provost	June 30, 2009/Assistant Provost & Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management
Task Force to make recommendations on Draft of Policy Revisions, Faculty Handbook, and process for Faculty to receive stipend	Associate Provost Assistant Provost Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management	July 31, 2009/Assistant Provost & Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management
Draft of Policy revisions	Provost/ Faculty Senate	To Provost by August 31, 2009/To Senate sub-committee by September 30, 2009/ To Full Senate by October 31, 2009
Draft of faculty handbook	Provost/Faculty Senate	To Provost by August 31, 2009/To Senate sub-committee by September 30, 2009/ To Full Senate by October 31, 2009
Process for faculty to receive stipend	Provost/Faculty Senate	To Provost by August 31, 2009/To Senate sub-committee by September 30, 2009/ To Full Senate by October 31, 2009

Flexible Academic Programming

The unit responsible for increasing flexible academic programming for this proposal will be the Office of Continuing and Distance Education at Kentucky State University. This office will pursue the strategic planning benchmark of developing a three year plan to expand distance education by utilizing similar guiding principles for online learning that has been previously established by the Kentucky Virtual Campus which is under the direction of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. The guiding principles utilized in the KYVU strategic plan include: Be guided by quality, be flexible and adaptable, and manage collaboratively.

Mission of OCDE

Increase the overall educational attainment of Kentuckians through increased participation, retention, and completions rates at Kentucky State University by expanding distance and online learning.

Specifically, the following benchmarks have been set in order to increase the flexible academic options for adults.

- The number of students enrolled in distance learning education courses is increased by 25% over the Fall 2008 baseline each academic year.

- The number of distance learning courses and programs is increased by 25% over the Fall 2008 baseline each academic year.

- The number of distance learning programs for career training students and employers is increased by 25% over the Fall 2008 baseline each academic year.

These three objectives will be accomplished by the university implementing a variety of

policy and programmatic revisions for both faculty and students.

Student Support

Sub-Goals
Increase support services to online students

Action Item	Deadline
Create help desk for technical support	Year 1 (2009)
Develop distance learning orientation accessible online	Year 1(2009)
Develop online student handbook	Year 1 (2009)
Develop an Early Intervention Program	Year 2 (2010)
Develop program to provide online tutoring support	Year 2 (2010)

Faculty Support

Sub – Goals
Increase faculty support to teach online courses

Action Item	Deadline
Develop incentive program for faculty teaching online	Year 1 (2009)
Create Instructional Designer position in OCDE	Year 2 (2009)
Develop plan for acquiring software for greater ease in course development	Year 1 (2010)

Policy Changes Related to Faculty

Sub-Goals
Develop process for incorporating online course considerations into faculty tenure and promotion decisions

Action Item	Deadline
Incorporate online course experience and interest as part of new hire interviews	Year 1 (2009)
Incorporate evaluations from online courses as a component of department faculty evaluations	Year 2 (2010)
Discuss plan to incorporate special provisions in the university policy for weighted credit for teaching online courses	Year 3 (2011)

New Programming Initiatives for Students

Sub-Goal
Develop new programs for working adults

Action Item	Deadline
Develop certificate program for state government workers	Year 1 (2009)
Develop one new online degree completer program each year	Year 1-3 (2009-11)

New Programming Initiatives for Faculty

Sub-Goal
Develop procedures to assure quality online courses

Action Item	Deadline
Incorporate requirement to use Quality Matters standards in developing all new online courses	Year 2 (2011)
Provide course development incentive pay program	Year 3 (2011)

Technology Needs

Sub-goal
Build infrastructure capacity to decrease technical barriers and improve ease of use of Blackboard course management system.

Action Item	Deadline
Implement upgrade to current Blackboard version	Year 1 (2009)
Upgrade laptops to be able to check out to faculty developing online courses	Year 3 (2011)
Purchase software to be loaded onto laptops to support instructional design	Year 3 (2011)

EVALUATION PLAN

The evaluation plan will include comparing pre and post data related to the following

target goals for Credit for Prior Learning and Flexible Academic Programming.

- 25% Increase in the number of students registering for Credit for Prior Learning

- 10% Increase in the number of credit hours that are being sought for Credit for Prior Learning

- The number of students enrolled in distance learning education courses is increased by 25% over the Fall 2008 baseline each academic year.

- The number of distance learning courses and programs is increased by 25% over the Fall 2008 baseline each academic year.

- The number of distance learning programs for career training students and employers is increased by 25% over the Fall 2008 baseline each academic year.

Comparison data will be compiled and analyzed on an annual basis and a report will be

prepared that depicts the success of meeting the abovementioned target.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

INITIATIVE	PROPOSED FUNDS TO BE SPENT
Credit for Prior Learning	10000 (8000 will be from unspent funds from the initial 20000 grant and 2000 will be from 30000 grant)
Flexible Academic Programming	4500
Project Graduate – one time scholarships for students with financial hardships/administrative support	Scholarships – 15000 Administrative support - 8500